

'Birds About Us' is illustrated by 24 half-tone plates, partly reproductions from Audubon and Wilson and partly from mounted groups in the collection of the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences — for which by the way the author makes no acknowledgment whatever. There are also a number of woodcuts, generally copied from Wilson, and for the most part so rough as to spoil the appearance of an otherwise handsome piece of typographical work. — W. S.

Chapman's List of the Birds of the Vicinity of New York City.¹ — Masquerading as a museum guide, a local list of such excellence has been laid before the public that its most obvious shortcomings are the result of an endeavor to please, at the same time, two classes of readers, the museum visitor and the ornithologist. As a consequence it leaves much to be desired by both; one has a dictionary of information thrust upon him instead of a primer, and the other growls at the superfluous illustrations and the references to alcoves and cases. The pamphlet consists of three parts, a brief introduction, an annotated list, and a short bibliography. The reviewer is placed at a great disadvantage for he is obliged to assume a dual *rôle*. As a visitor he finds the guide confusingly replete with scientific information. In the introduction the birds are nicely fitted into groups of "permanent residents," "summer visitants," etc., but there is no hint that the same species may equally well belong to several of these groups; and when he looks further into the list he finds "migrants," "fall migrants," and "spring migrants," — groups to which apparently no reference has been made. Any one of ordinary intelligence will discover that these terms are synonymous with "regular transient visitants," but in a guide nothing should be taken for granted.

From an ornithologist's standpoint the list is most acceptable, and acquires a particular interest from the fact that it is the first complete list of the birds of the vicinity of New York City that has appeared since that of Mr. Geo. N. Lawrence in 1866. It therefore deserves careful scrutiny and comparison with this list rather than with others of more limited scope. Mr. Lawrence's 327 species have been increased to 348 by Mr. Chapman. Introduced and extinct species are not numbered as part of the list, but incongruously appear in the same type used for it. Besides, such species as *Camptolaimus labradorius* and *Tympanuchus americanus* ought to have been treated alike. Aside from mere synonyms, Mr. Chapman omits without comment the following birds given by Mr. Lawrence, viz.: "*Turdus* [= *Hesperocichla*] *naevius*," "*Puffinus*

¹ Visitor's Guide to the Local Collection of Birds in the American Museum of Natural History, New York City. With an Annotated List of the Birds known to occur within fifty miles of New York City. By Frank M. Chapman, Assistant Curator Department of Mammalogy and Ornithology. New York: Printed for the Museum. 1894. 8vo., pp. 1-100, with pll. iv and cuts in text.

Anglorum" [= *puffinus*], and "*Sterna Trudeaui*"; and excludes "*Procellaria pelagica*" and "*Sterna macroura* [= *paradisæa*]" because no specimens are found in the Lawrence collection and there are no recent records. There are no less than three valid records for *H. naevius* near New York City, and neither of the reasons just given seems sufficient to exclude a species once recorded, nor do they explain other omissions. It is inconsistent to exclude, for instance, *Tringa alpina* or *Æstrelata hesitata* by the 50-mile limit rule and then admit *Chen caerulescens* and *Anas crecca*.

As a whole, however, the list is refreshingly accurate. The English name given to *Acanthis linaria rostrata* on page 57 should be Greater Red-poll, but there are no other slips of the pen worthy of notice.

A new and pleasing feature is found in the habitats given for each species, and they are defined with unusual care. Still, in numerous instances they are carelessly expressed. "Breeds from Pennsylvania northward," for instance, is not a habitat. Many of the birds of the Canadian avifauna are correctly stated to breed southward along the Alleghany Mountains, but the following species have been omitted, viz.: *Sphyrapicus varius*, *Contopus borealis*, *Empidonax flaviventris*, *Spinus pinus*, *Sciurus noveboracensis*, *Sylvania canadensis* and *Certhia familiaris americana*. Some of them have been recorded as far south as North Carolina, years ago.

Turning for a moment to the introduction we find classified groups of birds that are not happily chosen. The distinctions are artificial, rarity usurping largely the place of a scientific basis. For instance, the "irregular transient visitants" might readily fall into other groups and the awkward term used thus become superfluous. More than this, why the Sooty Tern and the Oyster-catcher are grouped apart from the White Ibis and the Black-necked Stilt is not obvious on any basis.

However, there is so much of value in this important contribution, that we can well close our eyes to its comparatively unimportant defects.—J. D., JR.

Ridgway on New Birds from the Galapagos Islands.¹—In a preliminary paper of fourteen pages Mr. Ridgway has given us some of the results of his studies of the large collection of birds made at the Galapagos Islands by Dr. G. Baur and the late Mr. C. F. Adams in 1891. Says Mr. Ridgway: "Many of the specimens having been obtained on islands never before visited by a collector, it is to be expected that novelties would be found among the rich material which it has been my privilege to study. . . . Perhaps the most interesting result of Messrs. Baur and Adams' explora-

¹ Descriptions of Twenty-two New Species of Birds from the Galapagos Islands. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XVII, 1894, pp. 357-370, No. 1007.